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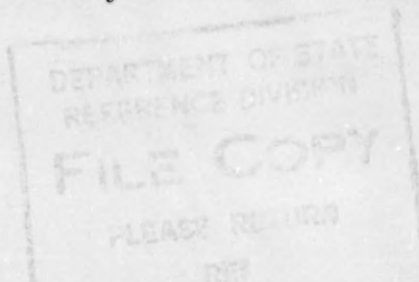
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POPULATION DISPLACEMENT OF AUSTRIA AS OF
1 JANUARY 1945

Description

An analysis of population displacements affecting Austria, with special emphasis on Germans living in Austria and Austrians living in Germany and German-occupied countries.



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SUMMARY

1. It has been estimated that, as of 1 January 1945, a total of 2,690,000 persons had entered Austria since the beginning of the war. The main groups consist of 1,500,000 foreign laborers and war prisoners and 1,000,000 Germans from the Reich. The latter are mainly evacuees from bombed areas in Germany, refugees from eastern and southeastern Europe who fled before the Russian advance, and various officials, skilled workers, and farmers sent from Germany. The balance of 190,000 is made up of 130,000 Volksdeutsche from South Tyrol, Hungary, and Yugoslavia and 60,000 deported Hungarian Jews.

2. Some 788,000 persons left or temporarily stayed outside of Austria during the same period. Most of these are men in the Wehrmacht (436,000) and Austrian war prisoners in Allied hands (131,000). In addition, 130,000 Austrians are estimated to be in Germany (pre-1939 residents, officials and party members, political internees, and boys and girls in the Landarbeitsdienst). It is estimated that 30,000 Austrians are in German-occupied territories, and that 20,000 had been caught in the Russian-liberated areas as of 1 January 1945. In addition there are some 41,000 refugees in Allied, neutral, and Axis territories, of whom the majority are Jews.

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POPULATION DISPLACEMENT OF AUSTRIA AS OF
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I. MOVEMENT INTO AUSTRIA

A. Estimate of Intruded Persons

Table 1 below summarizes the wartime intrusion of persons into Austria. All Germans in Austria have been included, whether they were wartime immigrants or not, because of the special post-war problems presented by this group. Explanatory notes on the various categories of intruded persons, are given below in Section B.

Table 1. AUSTRIA: INTRUDED PERSONS

Reich Germans - Pre-Anschluss residents, German officials, wounded soldiers, technicians, skilled workers, evacuees from bombed areas in Germany, and refugees from south-eastern Europe	1,000,000
<u>Volksdeutsche</u> - 50,000 Tyrolese 80,000 from Transylvania, Backa, Banat, and North Serbia	130,000
Deported Hungarian Jews	60,000
Foreign workers and prisoners of war	<u>1,428,000</u>
Total	2,618,000

B. Explanatory Notes to Section A

1. Reichsdeutsche. Estimates of the number of Reich Germans in Austria vary considerably.¹ They are composed in :
1. SHAEF (for the end of 1943); 750,000. OSS A 12627, 8 October 1943, altogether 3,000,000 Germans in Austria (including 260,000 German evacuees in Vienna). Plain Stockholm, 31 December 1943: more than 100,000 persons from the Rhineland housed in Vienna. Dagens Nyeter, 19 June 1944: 300,000 Germans in Austria, including teachers, journalists, police and evacuated persons. Arbeiter Zeitung, 22 December 1944: 1,400,000 evacuees in Vienna.

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the main by the following groups:

- a. Pre-Anschluss Residents. Before the annexation of Austria, there were 43,751 German residents in Austria.¹
- b. German Officials. Since the Anschluss in March 1938, numerous Reich German officials (Government and Party) have been sent to Austria.
- c. Wounded Soldiers. Austria had been a preferred reception area for wounded German soldiers.²
- d. Technicians, Workers and Farmers. Technicians, farmers, and skilled workers were sent to Austria in connection with newly inaugurated industrial projects. This influx became particularly strong when German factories were evacuated to Austria from bombed areas.
- e. Evacuees. Evacuation of the non-working population from bombed areas was largely directed to Austria, which up to 1943 was considered a safe area. Austrian provinces were designated as reception Gaue for some of the important evacuation centers of the Ruhr. Numerous KLV (Children's Evacuation) camps were reported in Austria; there were twenty-five in Niederdonau alone.³ After the Russian advance into Hungary

1. Statistisches Jahrbuch für Österreich, 1938.

2. New York Times, 6 November 1942.

3. National Zeitung, 18 July, 13 August, 9 December 1943; Völkischer Beobachter (Vienna), 12 October 1943; New York Times, 29 November 1943; Salzburger Zeitung, 11 December 1944; Rheinisch Westfälische Zeitung, 22 January 1944.

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in the fall of 1944, many Germans fearing that the advance would continue into Austria fled to the Reich and a large-scale return movement of a spontaneous character took place.¹ On the other hand, Austria had a further influx of refugees when numerous Reich Germans streamed back from southeastern Europe together with the retreating German Armies and entered Austria. While the sum of these groups is undoubtedly large, there is no method of estimating them with any degree of precision, and the figure of 1,000,000 is speculative.

2. Volksdeutsche.

a. The 72,000 Volksdeutsche from South Tyrol, who had been transferred prior to the spring of 1942 were reportedly resettled very largely in the Austrian provinces of North Tyrol-Vorarlberg and Carinthia. Smaller groups of transferred Tyrolese were resettled in German-annexed Slovenia, in Lorraine, Luxemburg, and the Sudetenland. Artisans were reported to have been sent to Bohemia-Moravia. Furthermore, the total of 72,000 includes 10,000 Reichsdeutsche from South Tyrol who were not resettled in Austria. Making allowances for all these factors, some 50,000 Tyrolese Volksdeutsche were probably living in Austria.

b. The Russian advance caused the flight of hundreds of thousands of Volksdeutsche from southeastern Europe (Transylvania, Banat, Hungary, and North Serbia).² All of these

1. OSS Source S, 31 October 1944; Trots Ault, 5 January 1944.
2. Transocean, 25 September 1944, 28 October 1944; Hungarian Home Service, 7 November 1944; Niederdonauer Beobachter, 2 January 1945.

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refugees passed through Austria. The majority of them continued on to the Old Reich,¹ but many remained in Austria. Some stayed awaiting a final resettlement; tens of thousands became employed in agriculture in Oberdonau;² others were employed in the armament industries of Linz and Steyr.³ The total number of those who stayed in Austria has been estimated at 80,000.

3. Deported Hungarian Jews. According to an International Red Cross report of November 1944, received by the Joint Distribution Committee, 60,000 Hungarian Jews have been deported since 15 October 1944 for work on fortifications in Austria.

4. Foreign Workers and Prisoners of War. Sources for this estimate have been given in R & A Report No. 1623, Foreign Labor in Germany.

II. MOVEMENT OUT OF AUSTRIA

A. Estimate of Extruded Persons

Table 2 on the following page summarizes the wartime movement of persons who emigrated from Austria. Explanatory notes on the various categories of extruded persons are given below in Section B. All Austrians in Germany have been included, whether they were wartime immigrants or not, because

1. Völkischer Beobachter, Vienna, 24 November 1944; Nya Dagligt Allehanda, 21 September 1944.

2. Heimatblatt für die Kreise Wels und Grieskirchen, 27 October 1944.

3. Heimatblatt Linz, 27 October 1944.

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Table 2. AUSTRIA: EXTRUDED PERSONS

Austrians in Germany:	
100,000 old residents (before September 1939)	
10,000 youngsters in <u>Landarbeitsdienst</u>	
10,000 officials and party members	
10,000 political internees	130,000
In German-occupied territories (administrators, colonists, merchants, etc.)	30,000
Caught in Russian-liberated areas	20,000
Jewish refugees abroad (neutral and allied countries)	31,000
Surviving Jews, in hiding in neighboring countries	5,000
Non-Jewish refugees abroad (neutral and allied countries)	5,000
In German <u>Wehrmacht</u>	436,000
War prisoners in Allied hands of whom 55,000 in Soviet hands	<u>131,000</u>
Total	788,000

of the special post-war problems presented by them. The great movement of Reich Germans streaming out of Austria as a result of the Russian advances has been taken into account in Table I as a factor reducing the total of Reich Germans in Austria.

B. Explanatory Notes to Section A

1. Austrians in the Old Reich.

a. The German Census of 1939 did not classify Austrians as foreigners residing in Germany because they were considered to be German citizens. According to the German Census of 1933, however, there were at that time 80,663 Austrians in Germany.

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Migration between 1933 and the Anschluss in 1938 consisted mainly of Austrian Nazis who took refuge in Germany and returned after the annexation. In 1938-39, there was a heavy migration into Germany of Austrian workers who had been attracted by the booming German armament industry. This migratory influx stopped after 1939 because of the growth of Austrian war industry. A certain return movement can even be assumed to have taken place. Taking into account mobilization, the figure of 18,500 Austrian workers in Germany is consistent with the 1933 percentage of factory workers and our estimate of 100,000 "old residents" in the Reich.

b. Considering scattered available data on political deportees from various countries interned in the Reich, the number of Austrian internees in the Reich can be roughly estimated at 10,000.

2. Austrians in German-occupied Countries. Germans in occupied countries consist mainly of two large groups, first, evacuees from bombed areas and second, officials, colonists, employees of the Wehrmacht, various technicians, business people, etc. There was hardly an evacuation of bombed persons from Austria, which was itself considered a reception area. Evacuation from Vienna was directed to other Austrian provinces. Accordingly, the percentage of Austrians among the nationals of Greater Germany sent abroad must have been in general proportionately lower. But in the neighboring

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occupied territories, with which Austria had always had economic and cultural ties, the percentage of Austrians among the second category of Germans abroad (officials, etc.) was considerably higher. Thus the preponderance of the Austrian element has been explicitly stressed among the 30,000 German nationals in Cracow.¹ However, this holds true mainly for the eastern territories, and southeastern Europe, now largely liberated, and not for Bohemia and Moravia, where officials, workers, etc., were mainly Germans from the Old Reich. Our total estimate of Austrians in German-occupied territories is based on the assumption that altogether, the percentage of Austrians was lower than that of Germans (proportionately to the general population).

3. Austrians in Russian-liberated Territories. This estimate is based on the assumption that the Germans succeeded in evacuating the overwhelming majority of their nationals abroad before the Russian advance. Austrian civilians captured earlier by the Allies at the Western Front are carried among the war prisoners.

4. Austrian Refugees Abroad. The great majority of Austrian refugees are Jews. The Austrian group of the European Advisory and Consultative Group prepared a report The Road Back-Rehabilitation of the Jews in Austria which gives figures on the distribution of the former 190,000 Austrian Jews as of January 1944:

1. Völkischer Beobachter, 26 August 1943.

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Living in Vienna	3,000
Labor camps in Austria	11,000
In concentration camps in neighboring countires (Lodz, Theresienstadt)	52,200
Emigrated on visas (permanent)	69,650
Emigrated on permits (temporary)	31,000
Whereabouts unknown	<u>23,150</u>

190,000

The 31,000 persons who emigrated on permits are distributed as follows:

England	16,000
Switzerland	4,000
Sweden	2,000
France	3,000
Spain	1,000
Portugal	2,000
Egypt and Turkey	1,000
Italy	<u>2,000</u>

31,000

The 69,650 persons who emigrated on permanent visas are distributed as follows:

United States	39,000
Latin America	15,000
British Dominions	5,000
Mauritius	650
Palestine	<u>10,000</u>

69,650

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Only the first group of 31,000 are refugees in the accepted sense of the term. Further allowance has to be made for

- a. Surviving Jews in neighboring countries (Theresienstadt, etc.) and among those whose whereabouts are unknown

- b. Non-Jewish refugees (mostly political).

5. Austrian Prisoners of War in Allied Hands. (OSS figure).

6. Austrians in the German Army. (OSS figure). It cannot be ascertained how many of these are at present on Austrian territory.

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